

Applicant: S. Jayaraman
Application No.: 09/941,327
Examiner: V. Bui

Remarks

Claims 2, 23-27, 29-31, and 37 remain in this application and are presented for the Examiner's review and consideration. Applicant has amended claims 29 and 31. Claims 1-22, 28, and 32-36 are canceled. Applicant believes the amendments and remarks herein serve to place this application in better condition for allowance and are independent of patentability.

Allowed Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that claims 23-26, 29, and 31 were indicated as being allowed.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

Claims 1, 2, 13-15, 29, 31, and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,375,677 to Penn *et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,174,329 to Callol *et al.* In response, Applicant has canceled claims 1 and 13-15. It should be understood that these claims are being canceled to expedite prosecution, and the cancellation should not be construed as an admission that the rejection is proper. With respect to claims 31 and 37, Applicant submits that these claims depend from allowed claim 23. Based on at least their dependencies, Applicant submits that claims 31 and 37 should be allowed as well.

Withdrawn Claims

Applicant respectfully requests that withdrawn claims 27 and 30 be reinstated. These claims depend from allowed claim 23. As such, based on at least their dependencies, Applicant submits that claims 27 and 30 should be allowed as well.

Conclusion

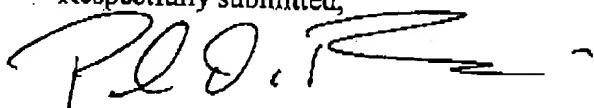
In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If any questions remain regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the

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undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

No fee is believed to be due. However, please charge any required fee (or credit any overpayments of fees) to the Deposit Account of the undersigned, Account No. 500601 (Docket No. 795-A02-006).

Respectfully submitted,



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